Non-casting of Votes

†4177. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rule 49(O) of Conduct of Election Rules, 1961 empowers an unsatisfied voter to refuse to cast votes in favour of all candidates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Election Commission does agree to recognize this rule as law; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and whether Government would consider to make this rule a law?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) rule 49(O) of the conduct of Elections Rules, 1961 provides that if an elector, whose electoral roll number has been duly entered in the register of voters in Form 17A at the polling station and has put his signature or thumb impression thereon as required by under sub-rule (1) rule 49L of the conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, decides not to record his vote, a remark to this effect shall be made against the entry in the Form 17A by the presiding officer and the signature or thumb impression of the elector shall be obtained against such remark.

(c) Rule 49(O) being part of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961, the question of the Election Commission not recognizing the same does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Disposal of pending cases

4178. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government are taking to reduce the accumulation of cases in civil and criminal courts all over the country;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.